

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-11 FEA-01

AGR-10 SAJ-01 /119 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 302

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1539

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

RUQMAT ATHENS 956

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 00417

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,EGEN,EEC

SUBJECT: THORN ADDRESSES EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENT GASTON THORN ADDRESSED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY 14 TO GIVE HIS "INITIAL REFLECTIONS" ON THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY AND HIS HOPES OF MOVING AHEAD UNDER THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY. HE DESCRIBED THE DECISIONS REACHED AT THE ROME EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS " MAJOR DECISIONS OF EXCEPTIONAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE" WHICH REQUIRE THE URGENT ATTENTION OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS HE PRAISED THE TINDEMANS REPORT AND PLEDGED HIS EFFORTS FURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO INSURE THAT ITS PROPOSALS RESULT IN COHERENT DECISIONS SO THAT THE IMPETUS TINDEMANS HAS GIVEN THE EC WILL NOT BE LOST IN THE MEANDERINGS OF PROCEDURES AND THEORETICAL DISCUSSION. THORN DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR OPENING NEGOTIATIONS ON GREEK  
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ACCESSION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING THE EC'S ASSOCIATION WITH TURKEY " ITS FULL VALUE".

HE CITED THE NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MASHREK COUNTRIES AS A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S WILL TO INTENSIFY

RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB PEOPLES OF THE EAST BANK IN PARALLEL WITH THE RECENT AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH ISRAEL. THORN ENDED HIS WELL- RECEIVED SPEECH BY CALLING FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON COMMUNITY POLICY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRECT ELECTIONS: THORN LAUDED THE PARLIAMENT FOR ITS ROLE IN THE MOVE TOWARD DIRECT ELECTIONS AND PLEDGED HIS EFFORTS TO INSURE THAT THE CONVENTION ENABLING MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE BE ADOPTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME IN ALL OF THE MEMBER STATES AND NOT JUST IN SEVEN OF THEM REFERRING TO ATTEMPTS TO DIVERT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, HE EMPHASIZED THAT " WE ARE STRICTLY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE ROME TREATIES" AND ADDED THAT THIS SHOULD DISPEL DOUBTS ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PROCESS HE CRITICIZED THE OPPONENTS OF DIRECT ELECTIONS WHOSE PRINCIPAL CONCERN HE SAID, IS " TO ELIMINATE ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT FURTHER THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE" AND ADDED THAT IT WAS "ILLOGICAL TO ALLOW THE EXISTENCE OF COMMUNITIES WHILE REFUSING TO MAKE THEM MORE DEMOCRATIC."

3. NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE: THORN SAID THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WOULD BEGIN NEXT WEEK (JAN. 29) TO DEVELOP AND DEFINE A COMMON POSITION ON TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE CITED ENERGY POLICIES, RAW MATERIALS, DEVELOPMENT AID AND THEIR DIRECT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AS THE ESSENTIAL MATTERS DISCUSSED AT PARIS WHICH REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY POLICIES WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. HE ASSURED THE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE JOINT EC-NINE POSITION ON NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE " TAKE ROOT AND FLOURISHES." HE URGED THE COMMISSION AND THE PARLIAMENT TO USE " CREATIVE INGENUITY" IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S EFFORTS AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD USE THE AUTHORITY OF HIS OFFICE TO REMIND THE COUNCIL OF ITS POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CARRYING OUT PROMISES MADE IN ROME.

4. TINDEMANS REPORT: THORN STATED THAT HE COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO COMMENT ON THE TINDEMANS REPORT WITHOUT HEARING BEFOREHAND THE OPINIONS OF THE OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE CONTEXT  
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OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. HE PROCEEDED, HOWEVER, TO MAKE GENERAL REFERENCES TO THE REPORT, PRAISING IT AND TINDEMANS HE DESCRIBED TINDEMANS AS A " FIGURE WELL VERSED IN THE HARSH REALITIES OF POLITICS", WHO ENDEAVORED TO SKETCH A NUMBER OF CONCRETE POSSIBILITIES RATHER THAN DEPICT AN IDEAL COMMUNITY IN BOLD STROKES.

REFERRING TO THE "QUANTITATIVE LEAP THAT TINDEMANS ADVOCATES SO CONVINCINGLY", THORN SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION IN THE COMING MONTHS WILL BE AIMED AT INSURING THAT TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS RESULT IN A NUMBER OF COHERENT DECISIONS SO THAT THE IMPETUS HE HAS GIVEN TO THE COMMUNITY WILL NOT BE LOST.

5. GREECE AND TURKEY: WITH A VISITING TURKISH PARLIAMENTARY

DELEGATION IN THE GALLERY, THORN STATED THAT THE EC COUNCIL WILL SOON CONSIDER THE COMMISSION'S OPINION ON THE GREEK APPLICATION FOR ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY. NOTING THE COMMUNITY'S ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME OF THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE, HE SAID "THE TIME IS NOW APPROACHING WHEN WE MUST DECIDE ON THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS." THEN TURNING TO EC/TURKEY RELATIONS, THORN SAID " WE MUST INSURE AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND TURKEY IS GIVEN ITS FULL VALUE NOT ONLY WITH A VIEW TO CONTINUING TO INTENSIFY ECONOMIC RELATIONS BUT ALSO, AND PERHAPS ABOVE ALL, TO ENABLE THE COMMUNITY TO PLAY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD THE ROLE WHICH SHOULD NATURALLY DEVOLVE ON IT, NAMELY THAT OF AN AGENT OF AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING."

6. MASHREK COUNTRIES: THORN SAID THAT THE APPROVAL OF DIRECTIVES WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BEING " FOR THE MOMENT ONLY PARTIAL" FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE MASHREK COUNTRIES WILL ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH EGYPT, SYRIA, LEBANON AND JORDAN IN THE COMING MONTHS.

THESE AGREEMENT AND RESULTING AGREEMENTS WOULD HOPEFULLY OFFER " A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S WILL TO INTENSIFY ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB PEOPLES OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, PARALLEL WITH THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH ISRAEL." HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE A DEMONSTRATION OF EUROPE'S INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA OF THE WORLD.

7. SPAIN:

THORN SAID THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE COMMUNITY AND IN ITS BEST UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEREST TO HELP BRING SPAIN CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY.

8. CONCLUSION: PRIOR TO TERMINATING HIS REMARKS, THORN ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A FUTURE COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO RELAUNCH IMPORTANT PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH, STATING THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE COUNCIL WAS NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS LAST DECEMBER BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM CONCERNING THE LOCATION OF THE IMPORTANT THERMO-NUCLEAR FUSION PROGRAM. THORN, ALLUDING TO HIS EXPERIENCE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNGA, CITED THE NEED FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON COMMUNITY POLICY IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT COMMUNITY AFFORTS AT UNGA TO SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE HAD CONSIDERABLE EFFECT BUT HE NOTED THAT TOO OFTEN THE ABSENCE OR INADEQUACY OF COMMON COMMUNITY POSITIONS IS A SERIOUS HANDICAP FOR EUROPE. HE WARNED AGAINST BEING EXCESSIVELY PREOCCUPIED "WITH OUR OWN PROBLEMS" AND ADDED THAT "VIEWED FROM A CERTAIN DISTANCE, THIS UNION OF EUROPEAN STATES IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMON POLICIES APPEARS AS A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE PHENOMENON, OUR QUARRELS AND DIFFERENCES APPEAR ANACHRONISTIC AND, CONVERSELY, EACH TIME WE SUCCEED IN OUR EFFORTS TO APPEAR AN ENTITY, WE GAIN IN INFLUENCE AND CONSIDERATION AND THIS CAN EVEN BENEFIT OUR COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY. ONLY A REALIZATION OF THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS WILL ENABLE EUROPE TO PLAY

A USEFUL PART,AND WITH CHANCES OF SUCCESS,IN THE GREAT NORTH/  
SOUTH DIALOGUE WHICH RECENTLY OPENED."  
GREENWALD

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